

Lancaster County Commissioners & Lincoln City Council,

My name is Valerie C. Lemke, and I live at 13000 Pine Lake Road. That's right, our home is 5 blocks away from the Beltway- but that is not our biggest concern. (A house is a house it can be moved or replaced) But the land surrounding the house is our family's history, our farmland, and you can't replace that!!

Life at home has been extremely hectic for not only my parents but for my brother, sister and I. Us three kids work very hard to survive and make a living - you see we are the 5th generation to preserve and work on this land. I can remember my great-grandfather telling stories about how his father purchased this land when he came here from Germany. I remember seeing my great-grandfather's hands work the land. Just as my grandfather, father, mother and us three kids to now, on our family historical farm.

The same issue occurs for our neighbors North of the section, E. Hodtwalker's ground will be divided into units. His son, Rick, and Rick's three children's land will be divided. As well as my grandfathers land. Now for some reason our farm is not a "National Historical Site" and personally I don't care if it ever is. But it has been a part of Nebraska's history for our 150 years!!

I keep reading in magazines, papers and recently have been hearing this statement on the radio- "Nebraska's number one industry is agriculture." So, if Nebraska truly supports it's natural resources and future farmer- how can you even consider condemning it like this?? We (and I speak for my siblings as well) are your future agricultural farmers, and YOU are painfully killing all farmers out!

I want answers- why can't existing roads be used? From the last hearing July 11, I must agree with Mrs. Eleanor Francke, using 141st is not the answer....it would create an "island" of a half-mile to 148th (Journal Star, 7/12/01, pg 2A). Well open your eyes and see that 125th as a beltway will create an "island" less than 5 blocks to 120th!!

Not only is it flustering that existing roads are not being used, but the obvious process that will occur after, if the beltway is approved. It's common knowledge that trails will be put in- that's right those of you near the EM-1 route will have people practically walking in your yards. Then there is the talk of wanted a park, thus, taking more of our farmland. And when you come in and condemn the rest of our land - telling us what we can and can not do, stripping us of our jobs- we'll be finished- 150 years of family farming will be gone forever!! Think about it, how would you like it if someone demolished your business? If you were not allowed to sell your \$200,000 home for more than \$50,000?

As for the park around here, I totally understand wanting a beautiful agricultural place like this. My suggestion, use your "National Historical Living Farms" and allow people to come and see this National site by having a living history preserved park!!

My conclusion is simple, emotional, and a question that I want an answer to. Can YOU honestly look me in the eye and say, "Ms. Lemke, we are going to take away your 5 generation family farm from you without a care?" Come on, I want the answer!

Valerie C Lemke

**Exhibit 22
July 18, 2001**